



North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society

Chairman's Annual Report, March 2020.

Once again, NEDIAS ran a very full programme of talks, activities and visits in 2019, balancing our subjects to cover as many aspects of industrial heritage as possible.

The "A-Team" were involved in a survey with the Don Valley Catchment Trust surveying and looking for traces of old industries on the many tributaries of the River Rother in our area. The teams were active on the Spital Brook and on the upper reaches of the Doe Lea, where signs of an old pumping station was spotted near Stainsby. The team set up a really excellent exhibition with DVCT at Chesterfield Museum to showcase the work of the project, which gave opportunities to exhibit some of the many funds and photographs of the work carried out by NEDIAS at the Wingerworth sawmill on the Tricket Brook. Members can hear more of this DVCT project at the meeting this coming September. The team have also been involved with the Arkwright Society with survey on smelting mill green at Cromford, that interesting area between the church and the mill

We took part in the sponsored "Boat Pull" organised by Chesterfield Canal Trust, when many teams had volunteered to pull the Dawn Rose – the boat built in a Millenium Project by the Trust using the same techniques as would have been used 200 years ago, to the "Cuckoo" design typical of the original Chesterfield Canal narrow boats. In turns we managed to pull this boat by hand over a good 2 miles, the work of the team rewarded by a well-deserved pint on completion! Our talks during the year had included a presentation on the building of the Dawn Rose.

Other talks included a presentation by Prof. John Porter on the early glass industries of the area – we had the previous year had a guided tour of Sheffield Glass Museum by Prof. Porter. Following our visit to Barrow Hill Roundhouse in 2018 Glynn Wilton gave a talk on their lottery bid development project which had resulted in funding for their new visitor centre, museum and archive store. Peter Kennett talked on the Ecton copper mine, and in the year marking the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre, Michael Parkin talked about this milestone in industrial and social history. Tony Hill talked on the importance of the activities of the Strutts and Belper North Mill. Glynn Waite showed some amazing historical images of the railways in and around Chesterfield, and Philip Riden covered an interesting subject, the timber industries of the area, particularly its importance as a raw material for the many railway applications.

Our Facebook page was originally set up by Les Mather and he continues to add fresh posts every few weeks, attracting a loyal following.

Following another busy year, the Chairman would like particularly to thank the very supportive committee and other members for their work to ensure the smooth running of the Society; there are so many tasks to be carried out and I would like to thank those who very quietly and efficiently do what needs to be done to ensure the smooth running of our Society.

Finally I'd like to thank you the membership for your continued encouragement and support.